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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: February 5, 2021

Re: Vaccinations

Last month we completed Phase 1 of the State of Kansas Vaccination Plan in KDOC by vaccinating our healthcare workers and correctional staff performing critical work within those COVID-19 Management Units (CMU's) housing residents active with the coronavirus. Today, I want to take this opportunity to share important information with our residents and their families regarding how COVID-19 vaccinations will occur within our organization in the upcoming weeks in accordance with Phase 2 of the state plan. Vaccination prioritization for Phase 1 and Phase 2 within the state plan is:

Phase 1

- Healthcare workers
- Workers critical to pandemic response continuity

Phase 2

- Persons Aged 65+
- High-contact critical workers
- Congregate settings

With the guidance and support of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, we are ready to move into Phase 2 of the state plan. Beginning next week, and each week thereafter, we will have an expected 1,200 to 1,500 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine available to allow our medical teams with Centurion to begin administering vaccinations to those who wish to be vaccinated. The Moderna vaccine is a two-stage process that requires an initial injection followed up about four weeks later with a second.

The majority of our employees, some non-facility employees are in a later phase, and all of our residents are included in the implementation of Phase 2. With the number of doses previously referenced being available, and following the two-stage process to schedule and administer the vaccine, we anticipate it should take about 10-12 weeks to vaccinate everyone who fall into the categories identified in either of the two Phases and want to be vaccinated.

With the help of our partners from Centurion, we will administer the doses of vaccine allocated to us in as timely a manner as possible. The timeline for accomplishing these vaccinations is ambitious. That said, as other vaccines are nearing potential approval for use, and manufacturers of the vaccines currently in use are intending to increase production, the opportunity to shorten that 10-12 week period may present itself.

As we move forward with the vaccination process in Phase 2, here are some key points to consider:

- Administering vaccines will require patience among everyone. Some weeks we may receive more doses than planned, others less, so adjustments to our plan and scheduling may be necessary and often with little notice
- As staff and some contractors are working in high contact roles, and our residents live in a congregate setting, both are included in Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan. We will begin with staff and contractors in high risk categories and blend in our highest risk residents earlier than the rest of our population
- The first residents to be offered vaccination in Phase 2 will be those over age 65. The remainder of the population will also be included in Phase 2
- The facilities will be divided into two groups, alternating the delivery of vaccine, and the opportunity to be vaccinated between the two groups on a weekly, alternating basis
- Medical staff at each facility will contact residents when a dose of the vaccine is available for them
- There is evidence that a portion of those who are vaccinated may experience side effects from the vaccine. For most that will be in conjunction with the second dose, with onset a few hours after vaccination and lasting 12 to 36 hours, with many being able to carry on normal activities, but maybe with less energy. This possibility has to factor into scheduling vaccinations as some may not be able to have a normal day. So, each week we will need to stagger vaccinations throughout the week
- A portion of those offered the opportunity to be vaccinated will decline. As that occurs, to ensure every available dose is utilized, you may, at a moment's notice, be offered the opportunity to be vaccinated. If you have not already, please take the opportunity to review information about the vaccines to prepare you to determine what is best for you individually. Families can access information at <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/35/Vaccine-Info> and for residents please see the attached information
- At any point throughout this process, if someone is offered the opportunity to be vaccinated and declines, and later wishes to do so, they will be vaccinated

As vaccinations are administered in our facilities over the coming weeks, updates will be shared in a weekly message. In addition, your Warden or Superintendent may be communicating specifics to residents that impact your location. As information is shared with you, please take a moment to consider and understand it so that you are knowledgeable and prepared for any next steps.

While this next chapter in the response to the pandemic is the most encouraging news we've had since it began, this does not mean we can relax our mitigation strategies. Whether you are vaccinated or not, staff and residents are expected to continue to wear a mask, wash hands regularly, and social distance as much as you can. These and other measures to mitigate the spread of the virus will need to remain in effect for the foreseeable future. But sometime in the future, Phase 2, and the subsequent Phase 3 and 4, will be completed. That will undoubtedly inform the science and recommended response from public health experts at the world, federal, state and county level as to relaxing, or hopefully ending, many of the mitigation strategies that have become a part of our lives. In the meantime, keep applying these strategies.

To say that at times this pandemic has tested us would be an understatement. Our staff, residents and families have admirably managed this pandemic in the face of challenges not experienced in our world for a hundred years. Beginning these opportunities to vaccinate those who are interested moves us closer to the day when we can return our full focus to good correctional practices and moving our organization into the future.

Thank you all for sticking together under the most challenging of circumstances. Better days lie ahead.

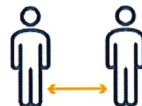
Be safe.



ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

8 Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Updated Jan. 5, 2021

[Print](#)

Now that there are authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States, here are 8 things you need to know about the new COVID-19 Vaccination Program and COVID-19 vaccines.

More Information for
Healthcare Professionals

[Healthcare Professionals](#)



1

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn how federal partners are working together to [ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

COVID-19

health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

2

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.

Depending on the specific vaccine you get, a second shot 3-4 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease. [Learn more about the benefits of getting vaccinated.](#)

3

CDC is making recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first when supplies are limited.

To help guide decisions about how to distribute limited initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have [published recommendations](#) for which groups should be vaccinated first.

Learn more about [who should be vaccinated first when vaccine supplies are limited](#).

4

There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

5

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.

The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Learn more about what [side effects to expect and get helpful tips](#) on how to reduce pain and discomfort after your vaccination.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

6

Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the [Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund](#).

7

The first COVID-19 vaccines are being used under Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.

Learn more about [FDA's Emergency Use Authorization authority](#) and watch a [video on what an EUA is](#).

If more COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved by FDA, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) will quickly hold public meetings to review all available data about each vaccine and make recommendations for their use in the United States. [Learn more about how CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations](#).

All ACIP-recommended vaccines will be included in the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. CDC continues to work at all levels with partners, including healthcare associations, on a flexible COVID-19 vaccination program that can accommodate different vaccines and adapt to different scenarios. State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments have [developed distribution plans](#) to make sure all recommended vaccines are available to their communities.

8

COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

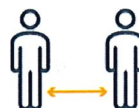
CDC will continue to update this website as vaccine recommendations and supply change.



ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated Jan. 5, 2021

[Print](#)

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated now that COVID-19 vaccines are available in the United States. While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to [ensure the safety](#) of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you

COVID-19

Below is a summary of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination based on what we currently know. CDC will continue to update this page as more data become available.

COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. [Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines.](#)
- All COVID-19 vaccines that are in development are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19. [Learn more about how federal partners are ensuring COVID-19 vaccines work.](#)
- Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, [particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.](#)
- Experts continue to conduct more studies about the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

- COVID-19 can have [serious, life-threatening complications](#), and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you.
- Clinical trials of all vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use, including COVID-19 vaccines. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine for use under what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). [Watch a video on what an EUA is.](#)

on what an EUA is.

- Getting COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. However, experts don't know for sure how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.
- Both natural immunity and immunity produced by a vaccine are important parts of COVID-19 disease that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic

- Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations [to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from COVID-19.
- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. As experts learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may help reduce spread of the disease in communities, CDC will continue to update the recommendations to protect communities using the latest science.

Related Pages

[Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

[Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#)

Last Updated Jan. 5, 2021